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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

16 May 1968

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Yugoslav Foreign Minister Returns from Prague

Foreign Minister Marko Nikezic returned to Belgrade on 15 May after a Prague press conference in which he said the Czechoslovak regime was in good hands and "capable of taking care of themselves." Nikezic rejected speculation that new formal agreements were needed to cement Yugoslav-Czechoslovak relations.

According to a high-ranking Yugoslav diplomat in Belgrade, the Tito regime has advised the Czechoslovaks that they are in no danger as long as they are united. Bearing in mind Tito's handling of the Cominformists in Yugoslavia and the existence of the conservative faction in the Prague regime, Nikezic, while probably counseling moderation, may have intimated to his hosts that they should deal firmly with the conservatives at the first sign of collusion with the Soviets.

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Kadar and Gomulka Begin Discussions

The Hungarians and the Poles wasted little time in getting down to business in Budapest. Formal talks began three hours after the Polish delegation's arrival on 15 May, between the party and government leaders and experts in the field of foreign affairs, on relations with Warsaw Pact allies and economic development. The makeup of these groups confirms the Embassy's suggestion that the main topics of the meeting were the Czechoslovak situation, bilateral economic problems, European security, and the German question. The new Hungarian-Polish friendship treaty will be signed on

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16 May and released to the press the following day.

Gomulka apparently arrived full of enthusiasm and vigor and not at all tired by the political infighting in Poland. Local wits, however, are spreading the rumor that Foreign Ministry officials are encouraging ambassadors not to miss their "last chance to see Gomulka".

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Bonn Officials Transit East Germany Despite Ban

According to a Bonn official, hundreds of Federal government officials have transited the autobahn between the FRG and West Berlin without incident, despite the East German travel ban.

State Secretary Duckwitz informed the Embassy in Bonn that between 220 and 240 "probes" have been successful since Mayor Schuetz was stopped three weeks ago. Bonn believes that the East Germans have decided not to create an access crisis at the present time.

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NPD members and other extreme rightists continue to be turned back by East German border authorities, however, under Pankow's ban on "neo-Nazis."

Drought Persists in Yugoslavia

The unprecedented drought gripping the Balkans has reached critical proportions in Hercegovina. In the regional capital of Mostar 20,000 persons must walk 15 to 20 kilometers to get drinking water. No money is available to haul water for cattle. Tobacco planters must truck the precious liquid from miles away to irrigate their freshly planted crops. In view of Yugoslavia's current economic problems the drought, should it continue, could seriously undermine the regime's economic reform.

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Yugoslav Secret Police Increases Recruiting of Informers

The Yugoslav internal security service (SDB) is attempting to reestablish its net of informers by recruiting among the general citizenry.

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Seminars and briefing sessions are being held in Zagreb to convince the average citizen that it is his civic duty to cooperate voluntarily with the SDB in counter-acting the activities of foreign intelligence services, particularly CIA and USIS.

This latest drive is part of the spy scare which has been whipped up by the Yugoslav internal security service since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. Although the SDB merely may be attempting to rebuild its domestic intelligence net after the purge which followed the ouster of Rankovic, its activity also fits in with the regime's propaganda line that Yugoslavia is menaced by internal subversion accompanying a world-wide "imperialist offensive."

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Rudi Dutschke May Come to the US

Rudi Dutschke, leftist West Berlin student leader who was seriously crippled by an assailant last month, may come to the US.

Dutschke's American wife applied several months ago to return to the US with her husband, but at that time the Mission was of the opinion that Dutschke was ineligible to receive a visa due to his reputation as a radical leftist. However, because of his crippling injuries--partial loss of vision and almost total loss of memory--the Mission no longer feels that he presents a risk to national security.

The question of Dutschke's ineligibility as a public charge has now arisen, but the Mission assumes that Mrs. Dutschke's parents, who reside in River Forest, Illinois, are prepared to support them if they come to the US. For this reason, the Mission feels that compassionate considerations should be the decisive factor in judging the Dutschkes' application.

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Cuba Not Invited to Nonaligned Summit Meeting

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Cuba has not yet been invited to attend Tito's non-aligned conference, [redacted] the Yugoslav ambassador in Havana asked to see Castro two months ago, but has not been

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received. The Yugoslavs, who wish to avoid alienating other Latin American regimes, are not happy at the prospect of Cuban attendance at the conference and probably are pleased that Havana has not sought an invitation.

NOTE: THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ABOVE REPRESENT
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